

76-2375

Honorable Mike Mansfield
 United States Senate
 Office of the Majority Leader
 Washington, D.C. 20510

8 JUN 1976

Dear Senator Mansfield:

On 27 January 1975, following adoption of S. Res. 21 creating the Select Committee on Intelligence, you and Senator Hugh Scott requested that the Central Intelligence Agency "not destroy, remove from [its] possession or control, or otherwise dispose or permit the disposal of any records or documents which might have a bearing on the subjects under investigation, including but not limited to all records or documents pertaining in any way to the matters set out in section 2 of S. Res. 21."

In response to this request, the Agency placed in effect a complete moratorium on the destruction of records, including normal administrative records scheduled for routine destruction.

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that it is our intention to proceed with destruction of records, now that the Select Committee has completed its investigation and issued its final report. We have so advised Senator Church.

Along with the backlog of routine administrative records, the Agency will destroy records which were collected and maintained by the Agency and which were subject to investigation by the Rockefeller Commission and the Select Committee. The Agency is required to destroy much of this latter material by the Privacy Act of 1974 (P. L. 93-579) and by Executive Order 11905. Of course, all records destruction will be fully consistent with other applicable laws, Presidential directives, and the requirements of pending litigation and Justice Department investigations.

I trust you agree that this action is now necessary and appropriate, and I would appreciate your confirmation of this understanding.

I am sending a duplicate of this letter to Senator Hugh Scott.

Sincerely,

lsl George Bush

George Bush
 Director

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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

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Honorable Hugh Scott
 United States Senate
 Office of the Minority Leader
 Washington, D.C. 20510

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CIA Plans To Destroy Records

A 22 Friday, June 4, 1976

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Central Intelligence Agency notified Senate leaders yesterday that it is planning to destroy secret records compiled over the past year concerning illegal and improper activities.

CIA Director George Bush said in a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) and Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) that the agency had "placed in effect a complete moratorium on the destruction of records, including normal administrative records scheduled for routine destruction" as a result of the Senate and executive branch investigations launched in January, 1975.

Now that the Senate intelligence committee, headed by Frank Church (D-Idaho), has completed its inquiry and issued its final report, Bush said, the CIA plans to proceed with the destruction of a backlog of routine administrative records and of other records "which were collected and maintained by the agency and which were subject to investigation by the Rockefeller commission and the select committee."

A spokesman for the Senate intelligence committee, which was also notified, said, "There's no objection from this source because this committee has gone out of business." The spokesman added that "we assume there'll be a record copy kept" of non-routine files. The Church committee turned back to the CIA various documents it borrowed and gave its own files, some 45 cabinets full, to the new Senate intelligence committee headed by Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii).

Bush said the CIA would have to destroy much of the material compiled for investigators because of the new Federal Privacy Act and President Ford's recent reorganization order covering the intelligence community. At the same time, the CIA director assured Mansfield and Scott that "all records destruction will be fully consistent with other applicable laws, presidential directives, and the requirements of pending leg-

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ment investigations."